

RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF  
THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA  
RESOLUTION NUMBER 99-45

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE LOCAL MITIGATION STRATEGY.

WHEREAS, Lee County and the Town of Fort Myers Beach are subject to certain hazards including hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, fires and chemical releases and face potential damage to life, property, natural resources and the local economy; and

WHEREAS, the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Groups consists of employees and community members of Lee County and the Town of Fort Myers Beach, the City of Cape Coral, the City of Sanibel, and the City of Fort Myers, and is open for participation to any and all interested parties; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group has identified these local hazards and has assessed county-wide vulnerability and risk to these hazards; and

WHEREAS, the Working Group has identified and prioritized mitigation initiatives that would reduce local vulnerability to these hazards; and

WHEREAS, initiatives identified on the Local Mitigation Strategy Initiatives List are given more consideration by state-managed funding programs such as the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, Emergency Management Preparedness Assistance Trust Fund, Communities Trust, Community Development Block Grant, Coastal Partnerships Initiative, and HOME; and

WHEREAS, the Local Mitigation Strategy can supplement the Town's Flood Mitigation Plan, as required of all communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program and seeking project funding from the Flood Mitigation Assistance program; and

WHEREAS, the Local Mitigation Strategy can supplement the Town's Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan as required of all coastal counties in Florida by Florida Administrative Code Rule 9J-5 as part of the Comprehensive Growth Management Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Local Mitigation Strategy is designed to be a process-oriented document with review and revision policies that allow the Local Mitigation Strategy to be changed to meet new or changing conditions including hazard-event frequency, perceived local needs and funding opportunities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH, FLORIDA that the Town Council does hereby adopt the Local Mitigation Strategy as a part of the formal guide for the Town of Fort Myers Beach's hazard mitigation activities.

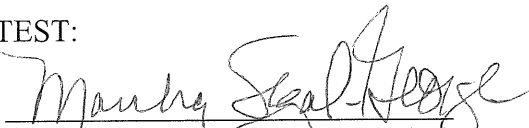
The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Town Council upon a motion and second and, upon being put to a vote, the result was as follows:

|                   |            |
|-------------------|------------|
| Anita T. Cereceda | <u>yes</u> |
| Dan Hughes        | <u>yes</u> |
| John Mulholland   | <u>yes</u> |
| Garr Reynolds     | <u>yes</u> |
| Ray Murphy        | <u>yes</u> |

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED this 6<sup>th</sup> day of December, 1999.

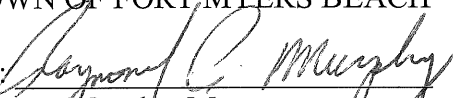
ATTEST:

By:

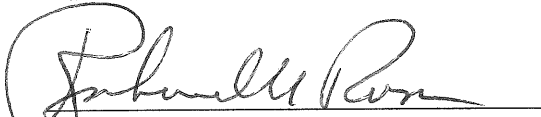
  
Marsha Segal-George, Town Clerk

TOWN OF FORT MYERS BEACH

By:

  
Ray Murphy, Mayor

Approved as to form by:

  
Richard V. S. Roosa, Town Attorney

# **Unified Local Mitigation Strategy for Lee County, Florida**

To Include:

The City of Cape Coral

The City of Fort Myers

The City of Sanibel

The Town of Ft. Myers Beach

Unincorporated Lee County

## Executive Overview

### Purpose of Local Mitigation Strategy

The Local Mitigation Strategy presented here represents a voluntary plan to promote mitigation from hazards posing a threat to communities within Lee County. The reason for the strategy lies in Southwest Florida's continuing threat from certain large scale hazards and to need to lessen the human, economic and environmental costs of disasters resulting from these hazards. The plan is project oriented rather than regulatory in nature. The plan will also aid in managing post-disaster recovery and long-term redevelopment activities.

### Results of the Local Mitigation Strategy Effort

The Unified Local Mitigation Strategy for Lee County consists of the following:

- X A set of goals and objectives agreed upon by all communities to address the mitigation of impacts from the following hazards: flooding from hurricanes and storm water runoff, high winds, wildfire and hazardous materials incidents.
- X A hazard vulnerability analysis identifying areas at risk to the designated hazards, the vulnerability of critical facilities within each community to these hazards, and the hazard vulnerability of the county's top 100 employers based on number of employed persons.
- X A set of ranked mitigation initiatives or projects that decrease the magnitude of these identified vulnerabilities

### Who Developed the Local Mitigation Strategy

The Lee County Disaster Advisory Counsel served as the Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group in developing this document. This Working Group consisted of representatives from municipal and county government governments, the business and environmental community, and the community at large (see Appendix A for a list of members). The Florida Department of Community Affairs furnished the funding for the process and the scope of work followed by the Working Group.

The Working Group completed the following tasks in developing the Unified Local Mitigation Strategy:

- X Identified governmental agencies and the roles they play in reducing losses to the four hazards.

- X Identified and evaluated existing governmental policies, ordinances and programs for their effectiveness in reducing losses from these hazards.
- X Developed a single list of mitigation goals and objectives to serve as the guide for addressing mitigation from these hazards.
- X Presented and ranked mitigation initiatives nominated from each community.
- X Identified potential funding sources outside Lee County for the ranked mitigation initiatives.
- X Developed a procedure to resolve conflict between the governments arising from developing the Local Mitigation Strategy.
- X Established evaluation criteria and procedures to regularly review, update and revise the Local Mitigation Strategy to ensure currency and to reflect changing priorities (see Appendix B).
- X Developed a procedure to rank proposed mitigation initiatives.

The Southwest Florida Regional Planning Council conducted the hazard vulnerability analysis step of the scope of work.

### Benefits

Adopting and maintaining the Unified Local Mitigation Strategy will result in:

- X Making certain funding sources available to complete the identified mitigation initiatives that would not otherwise be there if the strategy is not in place.
- X Reducing the cost-sharing ratio of local governments necessary for obtaining certain types of post-disaster grant funding.
- X Easing the receipt of post-disaster state and federal funding because of the list of already identified mitigation initiatives.
- X Supporting more effective pre and post-disaster decision making efforts.
- X Lessening each community's vulnerability to disasters by focusing limited financial resources to specifically identified initiatives whose importance has been ranked.

## Local Mitigation Strategy Goals and Objectives

**Overall Goal:** Develop and Maintain a Disaster Resistant Community through application of hazard mitigation policies and identification, prioritization and achievement of cost-effective mitigation projects.

*Goal 1: Support prevention activities and projects that reduce the risk of life and damage to property from identified hazards.*

Objective 1.1: Preventive activities that are addressed in various comprehensive planning and land document regulations shall be governed by the appropriate goals, objectives and policies contained in the following documents:

Cape Coral: City of Cape Coral Comprehensive Plan Coastal Management Element, Goal 4

City of Fort Myers: The City of Fort Myers Comprehensive Plan; including Section 1: Future Land Use, Section 4: Municipal Services, Section 5: Conservation and Coastal Management, Section 6: Recreation and Open Space, and Section 7: Public Safety; as well as the City of Fort Myers Growth Management Code.

City of Sanibel: Section 3.1.1. Hurricane Safety (Objectives 2, 5 and 6); Section 3.2.1. Coastal Zone Protection (Objectives 3 and 6); Section 3.3.3. Transportation (Policy 5.4); Section 3.4.1. Intergovernmental Coordination (Policy 1.4); Section 3.5.1. Capital Improvements (Objective 2); Section 3.6.2. Future Land Use (Objective B1)

Town of Fort Myers Beach: The Beach Comprehensive Plan Sections 4 Future Land Use Element, 5 Coastal Management Element, 6 Conservation Element, 9 Storm water Management Element and 11 Capital Improvements Element as well as the Town's Land Development Code."

Unincorporated Lee County: Lee Comprehensive Plan and Lee County Land Development Code

Objective 1.2: Continue support the efforts to purchase environmentally sensitive areas according to the ranking criteria set forth by the CLASAC committee that promote the preservation of open space in specified hazard areas by using Conservation 2020 funds, and to leverage other funding sources by working with state land acquisition and land management agencies.

Objective 1.3: Continue to enforce floodplain regulations that provide greater flood protection than that required under current National Flood Insurance Program standards.

Objective 1.4: Continue to support the South Florida Water Management District's efforts to increase the storage capacity to retain storm water in the Estero Watershed.

Objective 1.5: Give high priority to projects that improve the ability of current drainage systems to convey or divert storm water flooding from areas of the county and the component municipalities that have suffered repeated flooding events.

Objective 1.6: Beach and dune maintenance projects designed to maintain and preserve the private and public investment of coastal areas shall be funded according to the county's, the component municipalities', and the Captiva Erosion Prevention District's ten-year beach erosion control plans.

***Goal 2: Support activities and projects that reduce or avert property damage on properties that have suffered repeated damage from identified hazards.***

Objective 2.1: Obtain funding for projects that acquire and/or relocate repetitive loss properties, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that have a benefit to cost ratio of 1.0 or better.

Objective 2.2: Obtain funding to elevate, or otherwise retrofit, repetitive loss properties, as defined by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that have a benefit to cost ratio of 1.0 or better.

Objective 2.3 Examine the feasibility of enacting development standards in urban/wild land interface areas to mitigate future fire losses, to include vegetative buffers, fire-resistant roofing materials, screened gable and roof openings, and minimum driveway width requirements for fire response vehicles.

Objective 2.4 Attempt to improve the county and the component municipalities Building Code Effectiveness Rating System ratings to reduce homeowner insurance policy rates on new construction.

***Goal 3: Support natural resource protection activities that preserve or maintain natural areas.***

Objective 3.1: Continue current wetland coordinating/evaluation programs with state and water management agencies.

Objective 3.2: Continue enforcing erosion sedimentation and control regulations that reduce how much sediment enters natural areas when development takes place.

Objective 3.3: Support the continued purchase of lands through several local, state and federal programs that promote the preservation of natural areas.

Objective 3.4: Support the continued efforts to preserve, restore and renourish the beachfront and other natural resource areas.

***Goal 4: Support the achievement of emergency services activities taken during a disaster incident to reduce the hazard's impact.***

Objective 4.1: Continue efforts to gain a better understanding of the community's vulnerability to flood, wind and wildfire impacts through hazard identification and vulnerability assessment studies.

Objective 4.2: Continue the program to place additional water gauging stations equipped with telemetry access to monitor water levels in coastal and storm water areas.

Objective 4.3: Continue to support projects that fund building or retrofit projects that reduce the community's hurricane shelter space deficit.

Objective 4.4: Support efforts to fund improvements to critical roadway links causing congestion on evacuation routes for Category 1 through 3 hurricanes.

Objective 4.5: Continue efforts to identify critical facilities that need mitigation protection due to their importance in helping the community respond to and recover from identified hazards.

Objective 4.6: Flood proofing of critical facilities within the defined Coastal High Hazard Area shall receive priority for grant funding requests.

Objective 4.7: Examine the feasibility of designing water, sewer, and power infrastructure facilities so that they can function during a 500-year flood event.



Objective 4.8: Each component municipality will either prepare a CEMP or adopt the County's CEMP.

Objective 4.9: Identify and encourage incorporation of emergency power supplies to critical facilities and other public and private facilities integral to the operation, particularly with respect to health and safety support functions.

Objective 4.10: Evaluate the effectiveness of existing emergency power supplies to critical facilities and implement enhancements as needed to provide three to five days of functional operation.

***Goal 5: Support efforts to obtain funding for engineered projects that help keep the hazard's impact away from identified vulnerable areas.***

Objective 5.1: Seek federal and state funding to complete capital improvements to improve storm water flow.

Objective 5.2: Support the current policy of discouraging the use of Diversions to restore historical water flows and basin boundaries altered due to development, road construction or past agricultural practices and patterns.

Objective 5.3: Support efforts to fund channel modifications contained in Lee County's Non-Regulatory Surface Water Management Plan.

***Goal 6: Encourage public support and commitment to local hazard mitigation efforts by showing its benefits through public information activities that advise property owners, potential property owners, and visitors about hazards, and ways to protect people and property from these hazards and the benefits of protecting our natural resources.***

Objective 6.1: Develop and carry out public information programs for hazard mitigation that emphasize its direct benefits to citizens, including the public and private sector.

Objective 6.2: Develop a public information strategy to disseminate information programs on hazard mitigation that uses several communication methods, including the public and private library system, the public and private school system, the community's telephone directories, the Lee County All-Hazards Handbook, community awareness seminars for citizens and business interests, and the community's web sites.

Objective 6.3: Continue to work with community realty associations to improve participation in the voluntary real estate disclosure program for flood hazards.

Objective 6.4: Continue efforts to support funding programs that provide assistance to

property owners on ways to mitigate property from identified hazards.

*Goal 7: Maintain current pre and post disaster redevelopment and mitigation policies and procedures designed to reduce or avert the community's future disaster potential.*

Objective 7.1: Post disaster redevelopment and hazard mitigation policies and procedures shall be governed by goals, objectives and policies contained in all existing and developing Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans.

Objective 7.2: Objectives and policies contained in all existing and developing Post Disaster Redevelopment Plans shall be carried out through the appropriately adopted Post Disaster Ordinances following a major or catastrophic disaster.

## Appendices

**Appendix A**  
**Local Mitigation Strategy Working Group Members**

| <b>Position</b>                        | <b>Current Member</b>             |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| County Manager                         | Don Stilwell, Lori Parsons-Parker |
| County Public Information Officer      | Booch DeMarchi                    |
| County Attorney                        | Dawn Lehnert Perry                |
| County Public Safety Director          | John Wilson                       |
| County Parks/Recreation Director       | John Yarbrough                    |
| County Community Development Director  | Mary Gibbs                        |
| County Transportation Director         | Scott Gilbertson                  |
| County Transit Director                | John Myers                        |
| County Human Services Director         | Karen Hawes                       |
| County Public Works Director           | J.W. French                       |
| County Finance Director                | Donna Harn                        |
| County VCB Director                    | Elaine McLaughlin                 |
| County Port Authority Director         | Robert Ball                       |
| County Health Department               | Joseph Barker                     |
| County Economic Development Director   | Janet Watermeier                  |
| County Utilities Director              | Glenn Greer                       |
| County Solid Waste Director            | Lindsey Sampson                   |
| Lee County Fire Chiefs Association     | Dan Gourley                       |
| City of Cape Coral                     | Charles Johnson                   |
| City of Ft. Myers                      | Richard Chappelle                 |
| City of Sanibel                        | Bill Tomlinson                    |
| Town of Ft. Myers Beach                | John Gucciardo                    |
| County Sheriff Liaison                 | Bob Macomber                      |
| County School Board Liaison            | Susan Strong                      |
| SW. Florida Regional Planning Council  | Dan Trescott                      |
| Lee County Historic Preservation Board |                                   |

|                                 |                   |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| Board Appointed Representatives |                   |
| Business Community              | Kate Gooderham    |
| Business Community              | Mike Reitman      |
| Business Community              | Nikki Frenney     |
| Business Community              | Hans Wilson       |
| Business Community              | Jane Parker       |
| Business Community              | Pete D'Alessandro |

## 1. City of Cape Coral Officials Assisting in Developing The Local Mitigation Strategy

### **City Manager's Office**

Connie Barron, Public Information Officer

### **Economic Development Office**

Robert Johns, Economic Development Director

### **Information Technology Services**

Harry Roberts, Information Technology Services Manager

### **City of Cape Coral Department of Community Development**

Helen Stalkamp, P.E., Director

#### ***Division of Codes and Standards***

Carl Schmidt, Building Official

Gene Chartrand, Chief Plans Examiner

#### ***Division of Growth and Land Management***

Brad Cornelius, AICP, Growth Management Administrator

Jeff Meadows, AICP, Community Development Coordinator

#### ***Department of Community Development, Division of Growth and Land Management***

Richard Sosnowski, AICP, Planner (CRS Coordinator)

Pamela Porter, Planner

Jim Lettiere, Community Development Planner

Debbie Glynn, Zoning Technician

Sue McClellan, GIS Technician

**City of Cape Coral Fire Department**

Charlie Johnson, Fire Chief  
Carolyn Nelson, Emergency Planner

***Operations Division***

Bill Van Helden, Division Chief  
Amy Haston, Public Education Specialist

***Support Services Division***

Larrie Hedrick, Hazardous Material Coordinator

**City of Cape Coral Police Department**

Arnold Gibbs, Chief of Police  
Angelo Bitsis, Media Relations Coordinator

**City of Cape Coral Public Works Department**

Charles Pavlos, P.E., Director

***Engineering Division***

Steve Neff, P.E., Transportation Division Manager

Design/Drafting Section: Karl Braur, P.E., Design Engineer

Project Administration & Construction Engineering Section: Emilio Fernandez, P.E.,  
Chief Project Manager

***Services Division***

Richard Geraci, Manager

Facility Management Section: Tom Anderson, Manager

Storm water Operations Section: Jerry Gibson, Utility Inspector

Streets Section: Bob Taylor, Services Supervisor

Surface Water Management Section: Gloria Baron, Surface Water Management  
Supervisor

***Utilities Division***

David Waldie, Utilities Manager

Water Production Section: Shawn Kopko, Superintendent

Water Reclamation Facilities: Ron Dedtamore, Superintendent

**City of Cape Coral Financial Services Department**  
Judy Pierce, Grant Coordinator

**2. City of Fort Myers Officials Assisting in Developing The Local Mitigation Strategy**

**City of Fort Myers Planning Department**  
John Kremski, Jr. Planning Director  
Bill Mankin, Planner  
Christine Hurley, Planner  
Ryan Windle, Planning Specialist

**City of Fort Myers Public Works**  
Emmette Waite, Public Works Director

***Storm water Management Division***  
Robert Tewis  
Archie Grant, Johnson Engineering (Surface Water Management Plan)

**City of Fort Myers Building and Zoning Department**  
Paul Keller (CRS Coordinator), Acting Building Official Ida Hunt

**City of Fort Myers Fire Department**  
Richard Chappelle, Chief (Emergency Management Coordinator)

**City of Fort Myers Police Department**  
Larry Hart, Chief of Police

**3. City of Sanibel Officials Assisting in Developing the Local Mitigation Strategy**

**City of Sanibel Police Department**  
William Tomlinson

**4. Town of Fort Myers Beach Officials Assisting in Developing the Local Mitigation Strategy**

**Town Manager's Office**  
John Gucciardo, Deputy Town Manager

**Town of Fort Myers Beach Public Safety Task Force**

Town of Fort Myers Beach Local Planning Agency

Town of Fort Myers Beach Volunteer Road Maintenance Group

Contract employees at the Lee County Department of Community Development

Independent outside professional consultants